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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 26 November 1952

SUBJECT The Republica Factory

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1 DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. The Republica factory is located at 112 Bulevardul Vitan, Bucharest, site of the former Technomarina works for fishing and pleasure boats and rope, and is controlled directly by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. It produces solidol lubricating oil, which is made of crude oil¹, and is used for tractors, tankers, automobiles, and industrial machinery. According to the Five Year Plan, Republica is to be moved to Ploesti, where the necessary raw materials are available.
2. When it was nationalized in 1950, Republica had at its disposal 30 million lei in cash as working capital, finished goods valued at 25 million lei, raw materials worth 50 million lei and machinery whose value is not known.
3. The factory extends over an area of about 800 square meters and is surrounded by a 2.5 meter wooden fence. There is one entrance guarded by a watchman, who searches all workers entering or leaving the premises. There are 12 night watchmen, taking two-hour turns of duty, and six firemen. The factory itself consists of two buildings: one occupied by the solidol and polish departments, measuring 200 by 30 meters, built of bricks, and roofed with sheet iron; and one occupied by the coopers shop, which is a wooden hut measuring 200 by 30 meters.
4. Solidol is the main product of the factory and the entire output is supplied to the USSR. Wooden barrels for the transport of solidol are produced in a special department. In addition, shoe and floor polishes are also produced. The factory works to capacity, and has a daily output of eight to ten tons of solidol, 1,000 kilograms of polish of all colors, and approximately 100 barrels with a capacity of 100 kilograms each.

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5. The basic raw material of solidol is crude oil, from which gasoline and kerosene have been extracted. Approximately 20 tons of this oil is delivered daily in tank cars from Ploesti to the Bucharest Eastern Railroad Station (Gara de Est). From there it is taken in special trucks to the factory. A second raw material used in the manufacture of solidol is sonit (sic), a white powder chemical brought from Ploesti in paper bags. About 10 tons of sonit are sent daily, part of which is stored.
6. The factory pays the Ministry 3.5 and 8 lei respectively per kilogram of oil and sonit. Consignments of solidol, consisting of 100 kg barrels, are delivered daily to the railroad station. Payment is received through Sovrombank at a rate of 47 lei per kg. The polish is sold at 180 to 300 lei per kg to two state marketing companies, Centrocom and Alimentara, for local consumption only.
7. The price of a kilogram of solidol is calculated as follows: 1 kg of refined oil, 3.5 lei; 1 kg of sonit, 8 lei; wages, 10 lei; transport, 17 lei; miscellaneous, 7 lei; profit, 1.50 lei; total, 47 lei. Transportation constitutes the largest single item in the calculation, and the intended transfer to Ploesti would allow considerable savings.
8. The solidol and polish departments of the factory are steam-operated from a generator burning wood and solar oil. Power for the coopers shop is supplied by the municipal power station. The factory consumes 35,000 kw (at 120 volt) per month and pays 17 lei per kw.
9. There are no railroad sidings, and the factory uses three 3-ton trucks for transportation. The factory also owns two automobiles.
10. The factory's manager is responsible to the Ministry, but his responsibilities are limited to such duties as the signing of documents. The chief engineer, assisted by the chief accountant and a staff of 60, is the real head of the factory. The factory employs 300 workers, 80 to 100 of whom are women, and the average age is 34. The solidol department and coopers shop work three shifts, but the polish department works one shift only.
11. There is another larger solidol factory in Transylvania.

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1. Comment: for details of the composition of solidol.

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